

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4055

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF MFA UNDER SECRETARY OREJA

1. BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF NEW MFA UNDER SECRETARY MARCELINO OREJA AGUIRRE FOLLOWS: OREJA IS A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFIER AND A POLITICIAN. DURING HIS ACTIVE FOREIGN SERVICE DAYS HE WAS A PROTEGE OF FORMER FONMIN CASTIELLA AND HIS HIGHEST PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTAL POST WAS UNDER SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF INFO AND TOURISM WHERE HE WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE MINISTER, PIO CABANILLAS.HE RESIGNEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH CABANILLAS WHEN THE LATTER WAS DISMISSED FROM HIS POSITION IN OCTOBER 1974. IN 1973 OREJA AND OTHER POLITICAL ACTIVIISTS ESTABLISHED THE MODERATE "APERTURISTA" POLITICAL GROUP KNOWN AS "TACITO". HE IS CONSIDERED THE PRINCIPAL FORCE BEHIND THE GROUP. IN RECENT MONTHS HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF "FEDISA" (FEDERACION DE ESTIDIOS INDEPENDIENTES) OF WHICH AREILZA, FRAGA, CAZANILLAS, RICARDO DE LA CIERVA, AND LEOPOLDO CALVO SOTELO ARE ALSO MEMBERS.

2. OREJA WAS BORN FEBRUARY 13, 1935 IN MADRID, BUT RAISED IN SAN SEBASTIAN AND IS ESSENTIALLY A BASQUE. HE HOLDS A DOCTORATE IN LAW FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MADRID WHERE HIS THESIS CONCERNED SPAIN AND TERRITORIAL WATERS. HE STUDIED ALSO AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EONN, THE LONDON SCHOOL OF LAW AND THE ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE HAGUE.HE ENTERED THE SPANISH DIPLOMATIC SCHOOL IN JULY 1958 AND
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GRADUATED FIRST IN HIS CLASS IN 1960. IN 1962 HE WAS NAMEE

BY THEN FONMIN CASTIELLA AS CHIEF OF THE TECHNICAL CABINET OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE HELD THIS POSITION UNTIL 1970 SERVING ALSO UNDER LOPEZ BRAVO. HIS PREDECESSOR IN THIS JUB, GABRIEL CANADAS (ALSO A "TACITO" MEMBER AND THE NEW DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM), WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN RECOMMENDING HIM FOR THE JOB. HE WAS ALSO A SUB-DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR IN THE DIPLOMATIC SCHOOL. THOUGH A FOREIGN SERVICE CAREER OFFICER HE HAS NEVER BEEN ABROAD EXCEPT FOR TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS ON DELEGATIONS: AS COUNSELOR OF THE SPANISH DELEGATIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, TO THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND AT MINISTERIAL MEETINGS OF THE OECD. HE WAS THE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR THE BANCO DE ESPAÑA FROM 1971 TO 1974, WHEN HE BECAME DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BANCO GUIPUZCUANO, OF AGROMAN, S.A., SPAIN'S SECOND LARGEST CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, AND OF EDITORIAL CATOLICA. HE HAS ALSO BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH ACNP, THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF PROPAGANDISTS. IN THE LATE 1960'S HE WAS ELECTED A NATIONAL COUNCILOR FOR THE PROVINCE OF GUIPUZCOA.

3. OREJA DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT. WITHIN THE SPANISH POLITICAL SPECTRUM HE CAN BE QUALIFIED AS A MODERATE LIBERAL AND A MEMBER OF THE LIBERAL "ESTABLISHMENT" GROUP. HE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE PROPONENT OF LIBERALIZATION, MAINLY THROUGH HIS "TACITO" ARTICLES (HE WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE SEQUESTERED ARTICLE "THE SUCCESSORS" REPORTED IN MADRID 7823), BUT ALSO THROUGH BOYCOTTING RECENT MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT DURING ITS DEBATES ON THE ASSOCIATION SCHEMA FOR ITS IMMOBILISM TOWARDS POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION. HE LISTS SPAIN'S INTEGRATION INTO EUROPE AS A HIGH PRIORITY AND HAS SOUGHT AND IS SEEKING TO PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THE EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT. DURING HIS TIME AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFO AND TOURISM HE RECEIVED IN HIS OFFICE TIerno GALVAN, LEADER OF THE POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY; RUIZ GIMENEZ, LEADER OF THE LEFT OF CENTER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS; AND THE LATE

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DIONISIO RIDRUEJO, LEADER OF A SMALL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GROUP. LAST FEBRUARY HE WORKED WITH OTHER "TACITO" LEADERS, SUCH AS FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ, AND WITH PIO CABANILLAS IN THE ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO BRING FRAGA AND OTHERS TOGETHER INTO A POLITICAL ASSOCIATION.

4. OREJA IS OF MEDIUM HEIGHT AND BUILD. HE HAS AN ATTRACTIVE AND POLISHED APPEARANCE. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT

FRENCH AND ENGLISH AND TALKS WITH ENTHUSIASM. HE MARRIED
SILVIA ARBURUA IN 1967, THE DAUGHTER OF MANUEL ARBURUA,
FORMER MINISTER OF COMMERCE. THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN. HE
HAS A REPUTATION OF BEING VERY RELIGIOUS.
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